

Biosecurity checklist

The following checklist can be used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your farm biosecurity activities.



The checklist provides options to assess yourself and your business against different levels of a set of biosecurity practices, from baseline activities to above industry standard. This level system allows for you to incrementally improve your biosecurity preparedness over time as necessary, practical and affordable.

By completing this self-assessment checklist you can quickly establish where current practices are working well to keep weeds, pests and diseases off your farm, and where improvements are needed.

The checklist will also help you to prioritise areas for improvement and can be used to plan and implement your on-farm biosecurity activities.

It should be revisited and updated as part of your annual farm planning activities to ensure that your day to day farm activities reflect the highest practical level of biosecurity preparedness.

Completion of this checklist is not compulsory and, except where stated, is not a legal requirement. Completion is therefore for the benefit of you as a grower in self-assessing your biosecurity preparedness activities.

Consider including the checklist as part of your QA reporting to demonstrate your compliance with good farm management principles.

Levels of biosecurity practice

In collaboration with Onions Australia, four levels of biosecurity practice have been developed:

L1. Baseline – minimal biosecurity practices are used and are below industry standard. Improvements should be made to minimise risks.

L2. Industry standard – biosecurity practices that reduce the risk of introducing new pests and diseases to a property are in use, however improvements could be made.

L3. Above industry standard – high level biosecurity practices that are consistently applied to minimise the risk of introducing new pests to, or spreading pests within, a property.

LR Legal requirement – in some cases there are legal requirements which must be met before best practice management is considered. Any legal requirements must be met.

Copies of this checklist can be downloaded from onionsaustralia.org.au

People, vehicles and equipment		Yes	No	N/A	Action
Biosecurity awareness					
L1	Signs at entry and control points				
L2	Farm biosecurity information sheet signed by visitors on entry				
L3	Training of all permanent and casual staff, and management of visitors - i.e. supervised access to the property				
LR	N/A				
Biosecurity signs					
L1	Signs at gate sites				
L2	Signs at gates and critical points on farm				
L3	Signs as above in other languages to cater for non-English speaking people who visit regularly - e.g. English + Vietnamese/Korean				
LR	N/A				
People and vehicle access					
L1	Single point of entry. Gate sign. Requirement to report to office or house				
L2	Visitor register used				
L3	Visitor register includes recent (the previous 48 hours to 1 week) visits to other farms or nurseries				
LR	N/A				
Clothes and shoes					
L1	Clothes and shoes checked and cleaned				
L2	In addition to L1, boot covers used in higher risk areas				
L3	Clothes and boots provided to visitors and employees for use on farm				
LR	N/A				

Equipment access (harvesters, contract sprayers, bins, utility providers, etc.)			
L1 - Incoming equipment visually inspected and entry to farm stopped if there are signs of soil or plant material			
L2 - Dedicated wash down area on the farm, using a product suitable for pest and disease risks. e.g. Bio-Cleanse™			
L3 - External equipment not brought onto farm			
LR - N/A			
Farm inputs			
Propagation material (seeds)			
L1 - Seeds sourced from a known supplier. Visually inspected and treated with an appropriate fungicide and/or insecticide before delivery			
L2 - In addition to L1, seed retreated with an appropriate fungicide and/or insecticide treatment on delivery			
L3 - In addition to L2, material supplied by a certified producer of clean or resistant varieties			
LR - N/A			
Organic fertilisers			
L1 - Sourced from reputable provider			
L2 - Sourced from reputable provider and visually inspected for contaminants			
L3 - Sourced from a provider of certified fertiliser meeting AS4454 (2012)			
LR - N/A			
Water (surface - dams and channels - and ground water used for irrigation) and natural weather events			
L1 - Water courses mapped and checked for weeds and feral plants which could harbour pests and diseases. Weather events recorded			
L2 - In addition to L1, active monitoring of paddocks and water courses undertaken after major weather events			
L3 - Structured surveillance undertaken around water courses or after significant weather events and records made of the details of the weather event such as wind direction, speed and anything different noticed in the days, weeks and months after			
LR - N/A			

Production practices				
Insect and disease plant pests	Yes	No	N/A	Action
L1 - Crop monitoring undertaken and observations of pest presence and absence recorded in order to control pests at critical points or thresholds				
L2 - Pest levels recorded for established pests. Management programs implemented on property boundaries for regionally established pests and diseases				
L3 - Crop monitoring (including pest levels) and treatment activities recorded. Absence of exotic pests recorded				
LR - Report anything unusual				
Volunteer plants of Alliaceae crops				
L1 - Property boundaries are occasionally monitored				
L2 - Alliaceae crops close to property boundaries are monitored regularly and records kept				
L3 - Regional approach to management of volunteer plants and weeds is undertaken				
LR - N/A				
Effective use of chemicals				
L1 - Growers are aware of resistance issues and rotate chemical modes of action accordingly				
L2 - Resistance management strategy in place for herbicides, pesticides and fungicides. Records kept of pest populations before and after treatments				
L3 - Integrated pest management program and suitable resistance strategy in place				
LR - Chemicals applied according to the label				
Biosecurty zones				
L1 - Discrete blocks or paddocks identified on farm map				
L2 - Movement plan developed and restrictions on movement from high risk areas of the property (or between linked properties)				
L3 - Clean down of equipment between blocks - as appropriate, based on a risk assessment				
LR - N/A				

Farm outputs		Yes	No	N/A	Action
Waste management					
L1	Waste bulbs and plant material are mulched in the field				
L2	Waste bulbs and plant material are removed from the field to a designated on-farm disposal site				
L3	All bulb and plant waste is removed from the field and destroyed by composting, burial or burning, or taken off-farm				
LR	N/A				
Harvest management					
L1	Visual inspection of harvest equipment before entry into each paddock (including own equipment)				
L2	Wash down of harvest equipment before movement between blocks or paddocks				
L3	Wash down machinery between blocks followed by use of a suitable disinfectant. Blocks suspected of infection with disease harvested last. Records kept of all treatments and movements of equipment and machinery				
LR	N/A				
Packing shed management					
L1	Packing shed cleaned daily and waste disposed of in a pit and sprayed				
L2	Packing shed cleaned regularly and waste effectively composted or deep buried				
L3	Packing shed cleaned regularly according to schedule with records kept. Waste disposed of away from the field or off farm				
LR	N/A				
Waste management for packing shed processing other people's bulbs					
L1	Waste bulbs buried				
L2	Waste bulbs piled and covered in black plastic (solarised) for an appropriate length of time				
L3	Full destruction (e.g. burning) or deep burial and records kept on all waste removals and treatments				
LR	N/A				

Feral animals and weeds		Yes	No	N/A	Action
Weeding or spraying					
L1	Weeding or spraying equipment is cleaned with high pressure water and visually checked before each use				
L2	Weeding or spraying equipment is cleaned with a suitable detergent/degreaser and treated with a suitable disinfectant between blocks				
L3	Weeding or spraying equipment is cleaned with a suitable detergent/degreaser and treated with a suitable disinfectant between blocks. Records of movement and cleaning kept				
LR	N/A				
Wild and feral animals management					
L1	Pests are identified				
L2	Some pest management activities conducted (e.g. baiting, trapping and shooting). Risks for disease or insect pest introduction assessed				
L3	Regional vertebrate management plan developed and implemented with neighbours or wider farming community				
LR	N/A				
Abandoned farms					
L1	Aware of risks in area				
L2	Regular monitoring of crops near fence lines				
L3	Regional pest management strategies in place with monitoring and reporting to stop pests or disease build up				
LR	State biosecurity obligations – control endemic pests and report suspected exotic pests				

Train, plan and record		Yes	No	N/A	Action
Biosecurity planning					
L1	The <i>Farm Biosecurity Action Planner</i> or the <i>FarmBiosecurity</i> app is used as part of annual farm planning activities				
L2	In addition to L1, a farm map and biosecurity plan has been developed and is referred to when undertaking annual farm planning activities				
L3	A farm map has been developed. A biosecurity plan is developed in consultation with an agronomist or consultant as part of annual farm planning				
LR	N/A				
Staff training					
L1	Shed posters are displayed to draw staff attention to potential pest risks				
L2	Biosecurity training included as part of induction of all staff and family				
L3	External training is provided to staff on biosecurity management, including risk minimisation, exotic pest ID and reporting				
LR	N/A				
Record keeping					
L1	General records are kept about the timing of farm management activities including the arrival of new inputs, staff and equipment				
L2	Specific records of all movements on and off the property are kept. Records kept of pest presence				
L3	In addition to general farm management activities, records are made of surveillance activities including pest absence.				
LR	Spray records are maintained in line with state requirements for AgVet chemical use				